



U.S. Small Business Administration

DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Disaster Assistance Available for Agricultural-Dependent Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA - Small, non-farm businesses in 25 Washington counties (plus neighboring counties in Idaho and Oregon) may now apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). "These disaster loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by the combined effects of drought, unusually cool weather and freezes that occurred from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 in nine primary Washington counties," said Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center-West.

Small businesses in the following primary and neighboring counties may apply for working capital loans to offset economic losses that are attributable to the disaster.

Primary Washington Counties: Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Klickitat, Lincoln and Yakima;

Neighboring Washington Counties: Benton, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Okanogan, Pierce, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla and Whitman;

Neighboring Idaho County: Nez Perce;

Neighboring Oregon Counties: Gilliam, Hood River, Morrow, Sherman, Wallowa and Wasco.

Small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations of any size may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. "Eligibility for these loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Tom Vilsack declared this disaster at the request of Governor Christine Gregoire. Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration. However, in drought disasters nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

Information and application forms are available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling (800) 659-2955, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

SBA's Electronic Loan Application (ELA) is accessible via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

The deadline to apply is **October 13, 2009**.

For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

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